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11

ADVENTURES INTO TERROR



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AUGUST

**MORE
ADVENTURES
INTO
TERROR!**

**"DEAD MAN'S
ESCAPE!"**



**"UNDER THE
KNIFE!"**



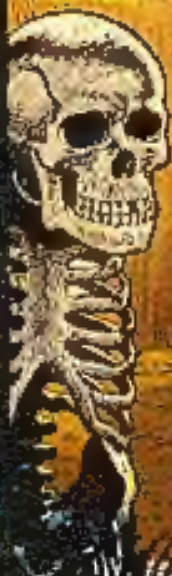
**"ISLE OF
HORROR!"**



YE WHO ENTER
ABANDON ALL
HOPE



HA! WHAT A LAUGH!
AS IF ANYTHING COULD
HAPPEN TO US HERE
AMONG THESE
SKELETONS!



ATLAS

DRY TORTUGAS! THE FORGOTTEN ISLAND OF THE WORLD'S WORST CRIMINALS! THERE WAS NO ESCAPE FOR THE LIVING FROM THIS HELL-HOLE... A MAN SERVED HIS TIME AND THEN DIED! THE ONLY WAY OUT WAS THE ...

DEAD MAN'S ESCAPE!



THE DAYS PASSED SLOWLY, AND TONY PARIS HAD PLENTY OF TIME TO THINK, BUT HE STILL COULDN'T COME UP WITH THE ANSWER! FINALLY...

OKAY, PARIS, COME ON OUT! THE COMMANDANT FIGURES YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH TIME TO COOL OFF! BESIDES, THERE'S SOME WORK TO BE DONE! AND EVERYBODY WORKS ON DRY TORTUGAS!

ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT! JUST KEEP YOUR CRUMMY HANDS OFF ME!



THAT'S TONY PARIS! YEAH, THE THE GUY'S BATS... GUY MUST BE NUTS! ANY-ESCAPE FROM DRY TORTUGAS! THINKS HE CAN BEAT THIS PLACE HAS GOTTA BE OFF HIS ROCKER!



THAT'S RIGHT! I'M THE GUY WHO'S GONNA ESCAPE... IF YOU THINK I'M GONNA ROT IN THIS HOLE LIKE THE REST OF YOU PIGS, YOU'RE ALL CRAZY!

WHO'S A PIG? I DON'T TAKE THAT KIND OF TALK FROM NOBODY!



YOU'RE NO BETTER THAN THE REST OF US, PARIS!

UNGHH!



BREAK IT UP, YOU GUYS, OR YOU'LL HAVE US ALL IN SOLITARY!

LEMME AT HIM! I'LL KILL HIM FOR THAT!



THE OTHER PRISONERS QUICKLY FORGOT ABOUT THE FIGHT, BUT NOT TONY PARIS... HE WAS NOT ONE TO FORGET SO QUICKLY...



I JUST GOTTA ESCAPE... THERE MUST BE A WAY OFF THIS ISLAND... BUT HOW?



C'MON, PARIS, GRAB THIS SHOVEL AND COME WITH ME... THE COMMANDANT'S GOT A NEW PROJECT TO BE BUILT... AND HE WOULDN'T THINK OF LEAVING YOU OUT OF IT!

TAKE IT EASY, WATCHDOG! THERE'S PLENTY OF TIME/BESIDES, YOU'RE ALWAYS TELLING ME I'VE GOT NO PLACE TO GO!



THEY WANT US TO DIG SOME KIND OF A HUGE WELL... WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON?

YEAH... THERE'S NO USE FOR A WELL ON DRY TORTUGAS! WONDER WHO'S BRIGHT IDEA THIS IS?



MY HEART! (GASP!)

IT'S POP! THEY SHOULD NEVER OF HAD HIM WORKING ON THIS WITH HIS BUM TICKER!



HE'S DONE FOR! GUESS HIS HEART COULDN'T STAND THE STRAIN!

WELL, THAT'S ONE WAY OF GETTING OFF DRY TORTUGAS! MAYBE HE'S BETTER OFF THIS WAY!



YEAH, MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT! FROM NOW ON HE'S JUST FISH FOOD!

FISH FOOD? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



SURE, WHEN A MAN DIES ON DRY TORTUGAS, THEY FEED HIM TO THE FISH CAUSE THERE AIN'T NO PLACE TO BURY HIM!

HOW? WHAT DO THEY DO, JUST THROW HIS BODY INTO THE GULF?

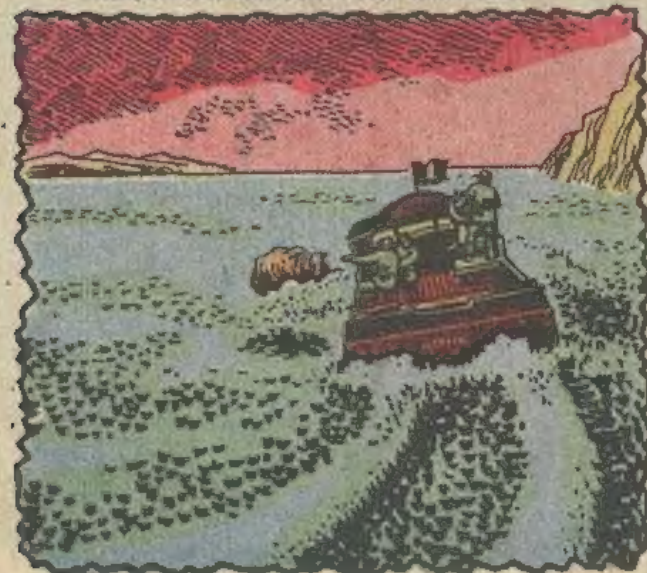


TONY DIDN'T SLEEP THAT NIGHT...THE SEED OF AN IDEA HAD TAKEN SHAPE...

FISH FOOD! THAT'S THE ANSWER...I KNEW THEY COULDN'T HOLD ME ON THIS ISLAND...I'LL BEAT DRY TORTUGAS JUST LIKE I SAID I WOULD!



"ONCE THEY DROP ME OVER THE SIDE, I'LL BE ON MY WAY...THE FIRST AND ONLY MAN EVER TO ESCAPE FROM DRY TORTUGAS!"



NOW, THE BODY MIGHT WASH UP ON THE SHORE, SO THEY PUT THE STIFF INTO A WEIGHTED SACK... TAKE HIM OUT INTO THE MIDDLE OF THE GULF, AND THEN DUMP HIM OVERBOARD!

AND I GUESS IF THE BODY COMES OUT OF THE SACK THE BARRACUDA TAKE CARE OF IT... HMM... PRETTY CLEVER!



"SURE, THEY'LL NEVER FIGURE IT'S NOT A STIFF INSIDE THAT SACK! ONLY IT'LL BE YOURS TRULY, TONY PARIS... AND WITH A WAY OF GETTING OUT!"



"IT'LL BE AN EASY TASK TO REACH SHORE... AND FREEDOM!"



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

BUT TONY COULDN'T START RIGHT IN ON HIS PLAN...NOT WITH THE WORK ON THE WELL STILL TO BE DONE...

GOTTA GET OUT OF THIS JOB...STILL CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHY THEY NEED THIS WELL! HMM, WHY NOT TAKE THE BULL BY THE HORNS AND ASK FOR ANOTHER JOB?



SIR, I KNOW I'VE CAUSED PLENTY OF TROUBLE AND I'D LIKE ANOTHER CHANCE! IF YOU COULD GIVE ME ANOTHER JOB WITH SOME AUTHORITY, I'M SURE YOU'D SEE A CHANGE IN ME! SAY IN THE...ER... PRISON MORGUE!

MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT, PARIS, BESIDES, NO ONE WANTS THE JOB ANYWAY! GUARD, TAKE PARIS' NAME OFF THE WORK LIST AND PUT HIM IN CHARGE OF THE MORGUE!



YOU'RE THE GUY WHO SAID I COULD NEVER GET OFF DRY TORTUGAS... NOW YOU'RE GONNA HELP ME DO IT!

ARRRGH!



CAUSING TROUBLE AGAIN, PARIS? C'MON, PICK UP THAT SHOVEL AND GET BACK TO WORK!

FIRST I WANNA SEE THE COMMANDANT... I GOT SOME RIGHTS, TOO!



LIFE APPARENTLY WAS HEALTHY ON TORTUGAS, FOR MONTHS PASSED WITHOUT TONY PARIS GETTING A CHANCE TO PUT HIS SCHEME INTO OPERATION... NOBODY DIED!



SOMEBODY'S GOTTA DIE SOON... THIS PLACE IS DRIVING ME NUTS! MAYBE SOMEONE SHOULD HAVE A LITTLE HELP! SURE, THAT GUY JOHNSON... STILL HAVEN'T EVENED THE SCORE FOR THAT FIGHT WE HAD!

TONY SLEPT PEACEFULLY THAT NIGHT... FOR HE KNEW THE NEXT DAY WOULD BE THE LAST ONE HE'D SPEND ON THE ISLAND...

HERE'S A STIFF FOR YA TO GET READY FOR THE SACK, PARIS! SOMEBODY KNIFED HIM LAST NIGHT!

THEY HAVEN'T FOUND THE GUY WHO DID IT, BUT THEY GOT THEIR SUSPICIONS! WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT, WOULD YOU?

NAW! I SLEPT GOOD LAST NIGHT! REAL GOOD!



TONY WORKED FAST, BUT HE HAD LAID HIS PLANS WELL! THE BODY OF JOHNSON WAS HIDDEN, AND THE SACK FILLED... FILLED WITH THE FIGURE OF TONY PARIS...



THEY TOOK PARIS BACK ALONG THE BUMPY ROAD, THEN ONCE AGAIN DUMPED THE SACK...



YES... THERE IS NO WAY OFF DRY TORTUGAS FOR THE LIVING... **ONLY DEAD MEN ESCAPE!**



UNDER THE KNIFE!

**A
WEIRD
ADVENTURE
INTO
TERROR!**

RESPIRATION SUB-NORMAL AND LABORED...PULSE IS WEAK, DOCTOR! IT'S GONE! HIS HEART HAS STOPPED!

THERE IS ONE GREAT AND FEARFUL ADVENTURE, FROM WHICH NONE ESCAPE! THAT FINAL JOURNEY INTO THE VALLEY OF SHADOWS! AND MATT HENRY, UNDERGOING CRITICAL LUNG SURGERY, SUDDENLY REACHED HIS MOMENT OF EMBARKATION!



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DRAMA GRIPPED THE OPERATING ROOM! A MAN'S LIFE...OR DEATH, HUNG IN THE BALANCE! SWIFTLY, THE PROFESSIONALLY COOL CHIEF SURGEON PLUNGED A NEEDLE INTO THE STILLED HEART!

HAS THE STIMULANT TAKEN EFFECT, NURSE?

THERE IS-- NO RESPONSE, DOCTOR!



THEN THERE IS ONLY ONE COURSE OPEN! IF I CAN REACH HIS HEART, THROUGH THE INCISION ALREADY MADE, THERE'S A SLIM CHANCE I CAN RE-ACTIVATE IT WITH MASSAGE! IT...IT'S OUR ONLY HOPE!



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SOMEWHERE, A MAN--ENVELOPED IN CHOKING MISTS AND STYGIAN GLOOM--STIRRED AND BECAME AWARE OF RETURNING CONSCIOUSNESS...

I...I...W-WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE AM I?

MY...MY THROAT! BURNING, AS IF ON FIRE...

IT WILL PASS! ALL NEW VOYAGERS ARE TROUBLED AT FIRST, MATT!

MATT? MATT... WHY, THAT'S ME! B-BUT WHO ARE YOU!?!

FOR ANSWER, THE CLOAKED FIGURE SILENTLY DOFFED ITS HOOD--CAUSING MATT TO GAPE INCREDULOUSLY!

I AM ZOE...BUT THE NAME MATTERS LITTLE! NOR HAVE I TIME TO EXPLAIN... SAVE THAT I AM YOUR GUIDE, YOUR PROTECTORRESS...

ALL I ASK IS YOUR TRUST, MATT! YOUR TRUST AND FAITH, THAT WHAT I DO IS FOR YOUR WELL-BEING! WE MUST NOT STOP! IT IS OUR ONLY CHANCE TO ELUDE--HIM!

IT WAS A CRAZY NIGHTMARE OF DISTORTED FIGURES! THE PUNT SKIMMED THE SURFACE OF THE FATHOMLESS LAKE, AS IF PROPELLED BY A SECRET, MALEVOLENT MOTION!

NOTHING ADDS UP! I'M LIKE A...A LOST SOUL BEING CARTED TO BURIAL! WHO ARE YOU? WHO ARE WE RUNNING FROM?

WE HAVE NO TIME TO LOSE, MATT! I CAN FEEL HIM IN PURSUIT! THERE IS NONE AS RELENTLESS IN A CHASE AS HE! ONLY YOUR UNEXPECTED, EARLY ARRIVAL HAS SPARED YOU SO FAR!

WITH A GROWING HORROR, THE YOUNG MAN HEARD THE URGENCY IN ZOE'S VOICE, AS SHE SKILLFULLY PILOTED HIM THROUGH THE DARK, SUNLESS CAVERN! HE WAS THE HUNTED! SUDDENLY, THEY EMERGED INTO A GARDEN OF GROTESQUES!



AAAIIIEEEE! DON'T LET THEM TOUCH ME! WHATEVER THEY ARE!

HAIL! IN THE NAME OF CAESAR, HAVE MERCY!

MERCY!

THIS IS THE ISLE OF COWARDLY WARRIORS, MATT... MOST PATHETIC OF OUR ENTIRE POPULACE! SOLDIERS OF ALL NATIONS, OF ALL TIME, DOOMED TO AN ETERNITY OF LIVING WITH THEIR WOUNDS BECAUSE THEY BETRAYED THEIR COUNTRIES!



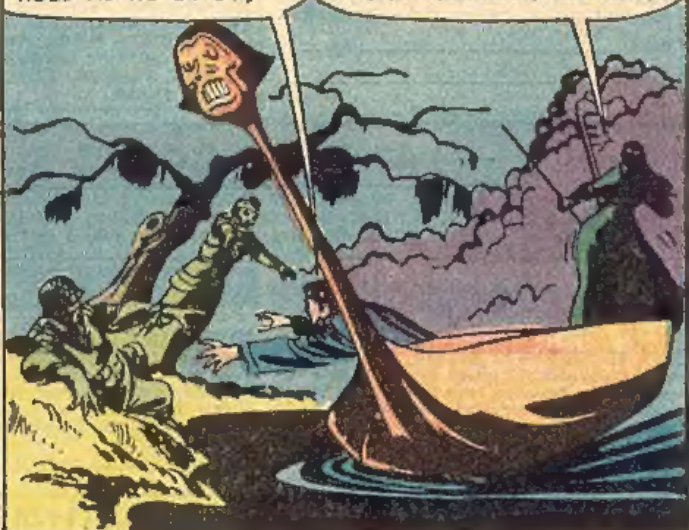
WITH A HEART-RENDERING CRY, MATT BROKE IN ON ZOE! ONE OF THE WARRIORS HAD CAUGHT HIS EYE! A BROKEN, DISFIGURED SOLDIER, WHO CROAKED A HOARSE GREETING IN REPLY!



MATT... MATT HENRY! MY OLD ARMY BUDDY! YUH CAME AFTER ME! YOU KNOW I DIDN'T MEAN TO DESERT--

JAKE! I... I DIDN'T BELIEVE IT! HERE... GRAB HOLD AS WE GO BY!

WE CAN'T, MATT! DON'T TOUCH HIM! WE MUSTN'T PAUSE FOR A MOMENT! LOOK...!



MATT LOOKED! BEHIND THEM... MASKED AND CLOAKED... AN OARSMAN WAS MAKING TERRIFYING GAINS! IT WAS HIM!



THEY FLED FROM HIM... A TORTUOUS CHASE THRU BLACKNESS, VIOLENT WHIRLPOOLS AND SUBTERRANEAN WASTES!

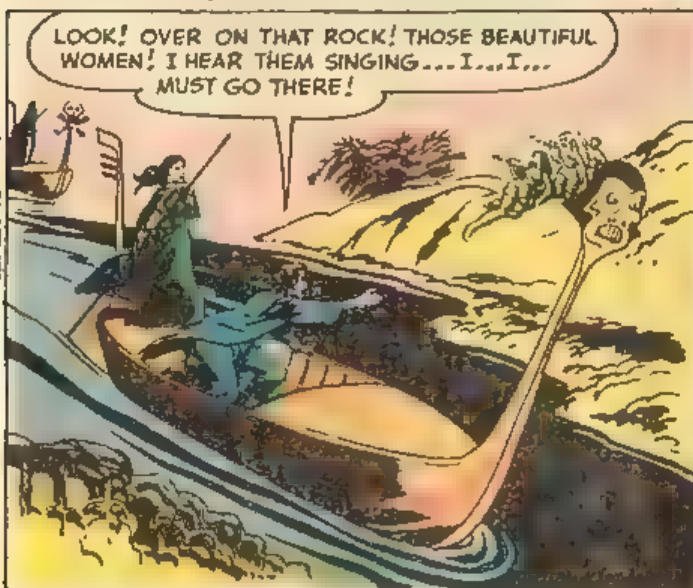


THE PIECES ARE STARTING TO FIT! ZOE... ZOE... A NAME MEANING LIFE! AND JAKE... I SAW HIM KILLED WITH A GRENADE WHEN HE DESERTED! HE'S DEAD... EVERYBODY'S DEAD!

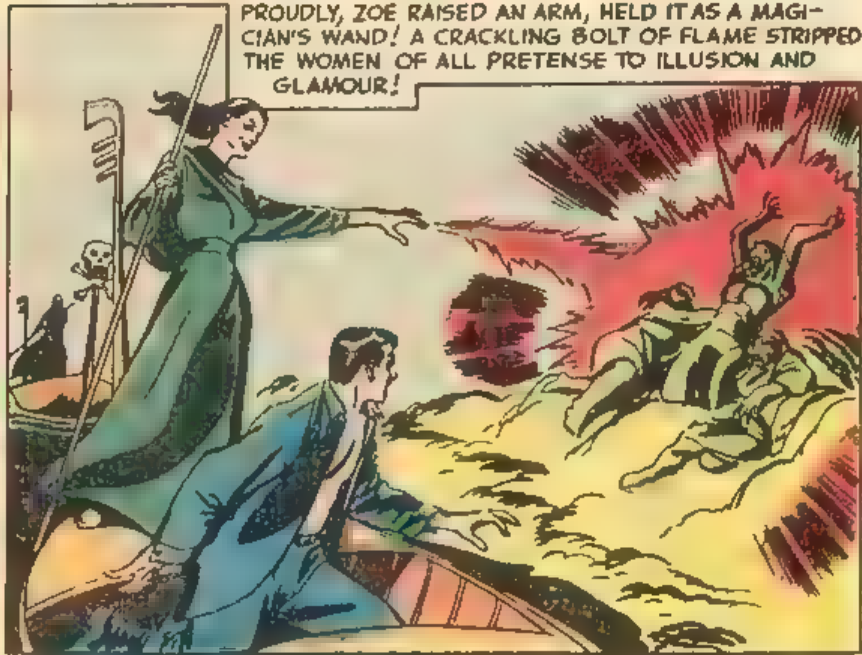


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AN EMPTY, COLD FEELING SWEEPED THROUGH MATT AS HE REALIZED WHAT WINNING THIS RACE MEANT FOR HIM! THEN AS THEY ENTERED A QUIET, FOUL-SMELLING STREAM...



FOOL! THEY ARE FURIES DISGUISED AS SIRENS! SIRENS IN THE PAY OF DEATH! BUT I WON'T ALLOW IT! I HAVE POWERS OVER THEIR CHEAP, HYPNOTIC TRICKS! WATCH...!



A WAVE OF SHAME PASSED THROUGH MATT! BUT IT VANISHED SUDDENLY, AS A FAINT GLIMMERING LIGHT ANNOUNCED FREEDOM!

WILL WE MAKE IT NOW? WILL WE ESCAPE BACK TO LIFE?
YES, MATT! I BELIEVE WE'RE QUITE READY!



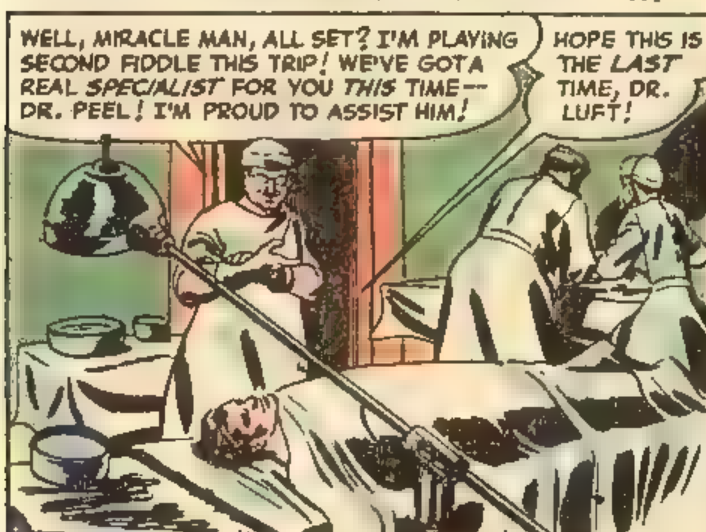
EVEN AS ZOE REASSURED MATT, THE CHILLING FINGERS OF THEIR PURSUER TOUCHED THE YOUNG MAN! PALE AND TREMBLING, HE TURNED TOWARD HIS HUNTER... SAW HIS FACE FOR THE FIRST TIME...



MATT HENRY SCREAMED...THE MOST BLOOD-CURDLING SCREAMS OF HIS CAREER! FOR ALTHOUGH HE HAD SEEN DEATH FACE-TO-FACE IN ONE WORLD, HE HAD REGAINED LIFE IN SURGERY!



IT HAD JUST BEEN A BAD DREAM, A NIGHTMARE! OR...HAD IT? IT SEEMED TO FADE FROM CONSCIOUSNESS AS HE RESTED FOR THE SECOND OPERATION A WEEK LATER...



MATT RELAXED AS HE INHALED DEEPLY THE PUNGENT ANESTHETIC! DEEPER AND DEEPER UNTIL HE ALMOST SURRENDERED TO SLEEP...



HE WHO LAUGHS LAST, GETS...

HORSELAUGH

A
STARTLING
ADVENTURE
INTO
TERROR!

TELEVISION REVIVED VAUDEVILLE
AND EDDIE MILLER AND JOE RICH
REVIVED THEIR OLD HORSE ACT
AND JUMPED ON THE BAND WAGON!

EDDIE WAS THE FRONT PART OF
THE HORSE!

AND JOE WAS THE PART FROM
WHICH THE TAIL HANGED!

HA HA HA HA



EDDIE LIKED HIS JOB AND HE
WAS THE BEST HORSE'S HEAD
IN THE BUSINESS! BUT JOE
WASN'T HAPPY BEING A HORSE'S
END... AND HE LET EDDIE KNOW
ABOUT IT EVERY DAY AFTER
THE ACT!

HEY! LEGGO...
JOE! WHAT IN BLAZES
IS THE MATTER
WITH YOU?

YOU KNOW WHAT'S
TROUBLIN' ME! I'M SICK
AND TIRED OF BEIN'
THE FALL GUY... THE
HORSE'S END! I WANNA
BE THE HEAD... AN' I'M
GONNA DO IT IF I
HAVE TO DO IT OVER
YOUR DEAD BODY!



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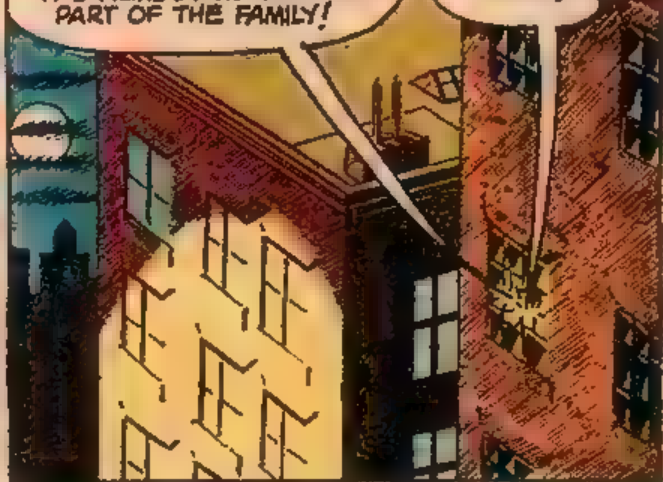
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BUT I CAN'T CHANGE PLACES WITH YOU, JOE! I'VE PLAYED THE HORSE'S HEAD PART EVER SINCE MY FATHER GAVE ME THIS ACT AND...

YEAH, YEAH...I KNOW THE WHOLE ROUTINE! YOUR FATHER DIED DOIN' THE HEAD PART...AN' JUST BEFORE HE DIED HE TOLD YOU TO NEVER LET ANYONE ELSE PLAY THE HEAD!

THAT'S RIGHT, JOE! BUT DON'T SAY IT AS IF IT WAS ALL A BIG JOKE! IT'S THE TRUTH! THE HORSE'S HEAD PART HAS BEEN IN THE FAMILY FOR GENERATIONS! IT'S ALMOST HUMAN...LIKE PART OF THE FAMILY!

AWW...THAT'S A LOTTA BUNK! YOU'RE JUST AFRAID THAT I'LL DO BETTER IN THE HEAD PART!



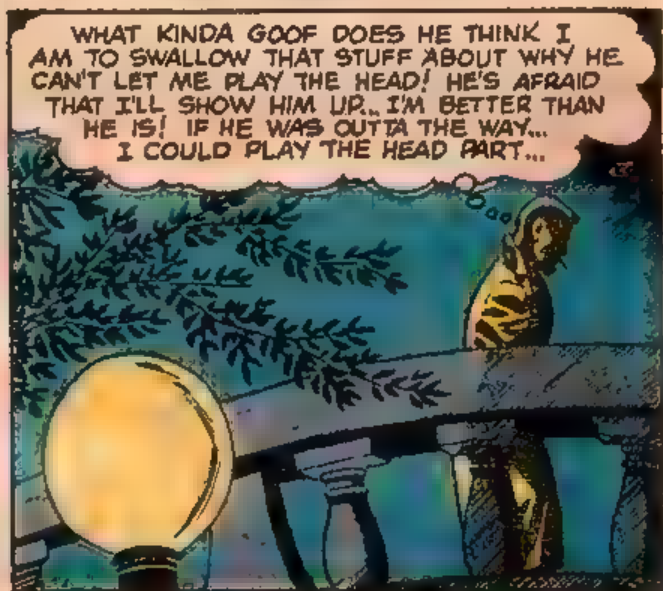
BUT I'M WARNIN' YA, ED...I'M GONNA PLAY THAT PART...AN' I DON'T CARE HOW I GO ABOUT DOIN' IT!

JOE! JOE! PLEASE DON'T TAKE IT THAT WAY! DON'T...

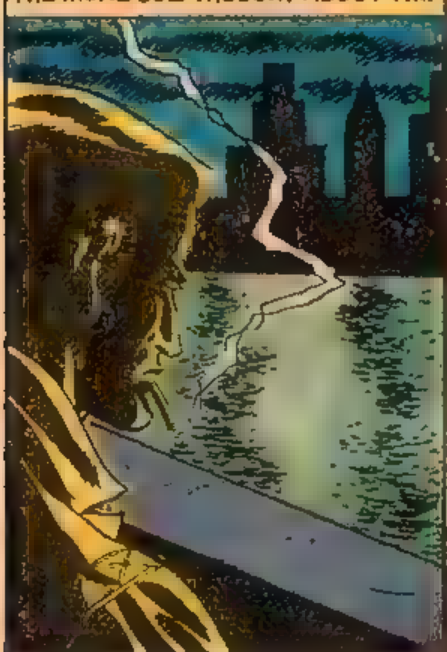


BUT JOE DID TAKE IT THAT WAY...AND AS HE WALKED HOME...HIS ANGER BEGAN TO FASHION PLANS FOR HIM... DANGEROUS PLANS...

WHAT KINDA GOOF DOES HE THINK I AM TO SWALLOW THAT STUFF ABOUT WHY HE CAN'T LET ME PLAY THE HEAD! HE'S AFRAID THAT I'LL SHOW HIM UP...I'M BETTER THAN HE IS! IF HE WAS OUTTA THE WAY... I COULD PLAY THE HEAD PART...

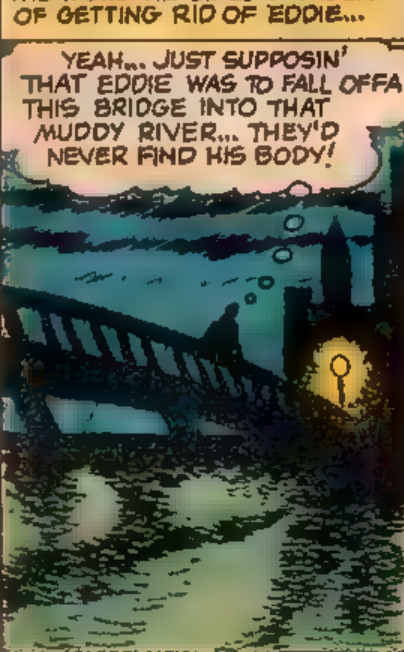


THE MORE JOE THOUGHT ABOUT IT...



THE MORE HE LIKED THE IDEA OF GETTING RID OF EDDIE...

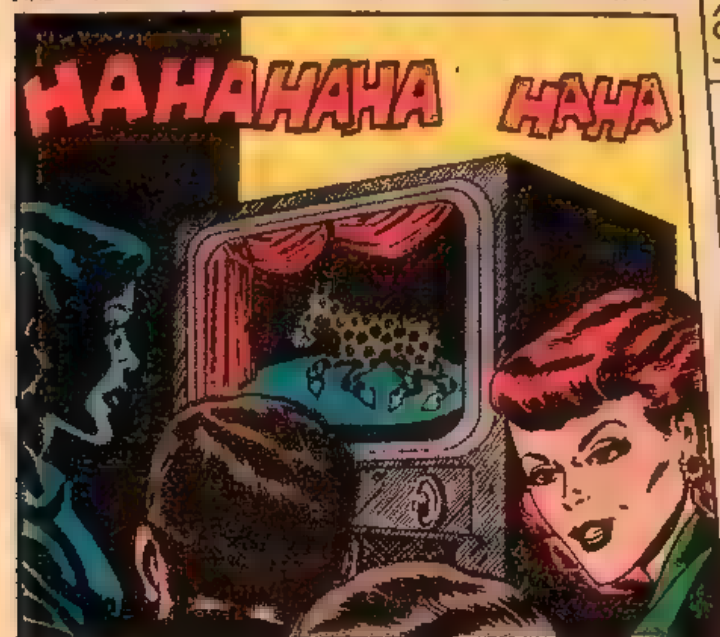
YEAH... JUST SUPPOSIN' THAT EDDIE WAS TO FALL OFFA THIS BRIDGE INTO THAT MUDDY RIVER... THEY'D NEVER FIND HIS BODY!



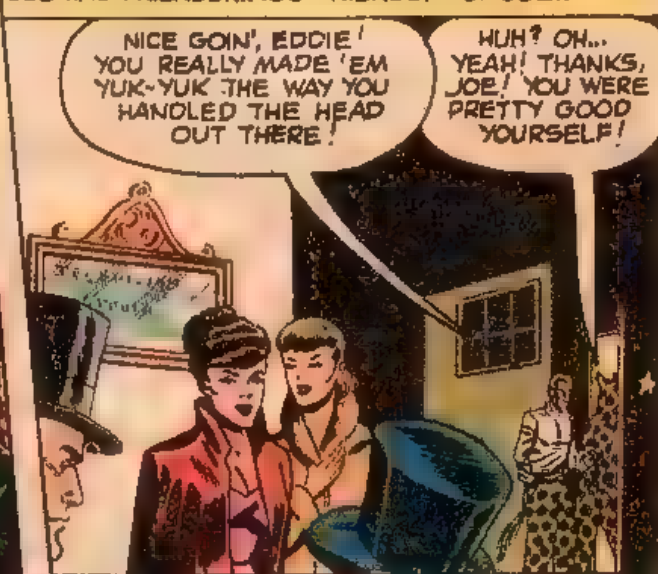
AN' IF HE WASN'T AROUND TO PLAY HIS PART...I'D GET IT! HMMM...SOMETHIN' TELLS ME THAT MY PAL EDDIE IS GONNA HAVE A LITTLE ACCIDENT...



AND THE NEXT EVENING THE ACT WENT ON AS USUAL...



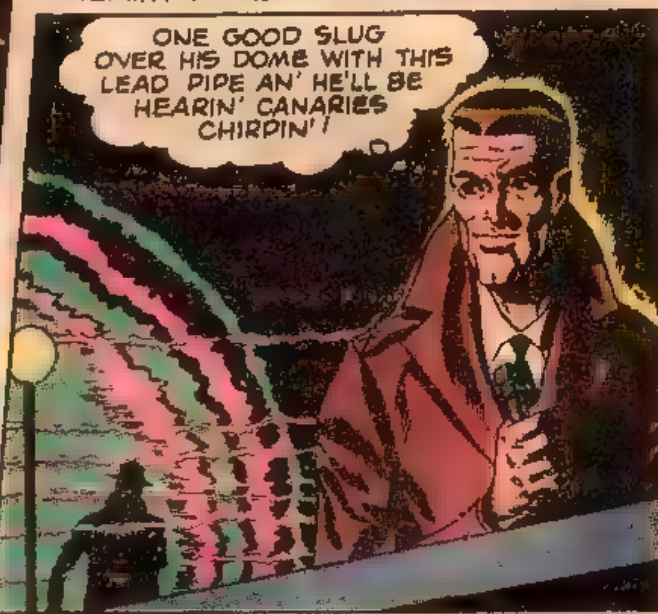
AND AFTER THE SHOW JOE DIDN'T ARGUE... HE DIDN'T COMPLAIN ABOUT BEING THE HORSE'S END! INSTEAD, JOE WAS FRIENDLY... TOO FRIENDLY FOR JOE...



JOE CHANGED INTO HIS STREET CLOTHES IN A HURRY AND...

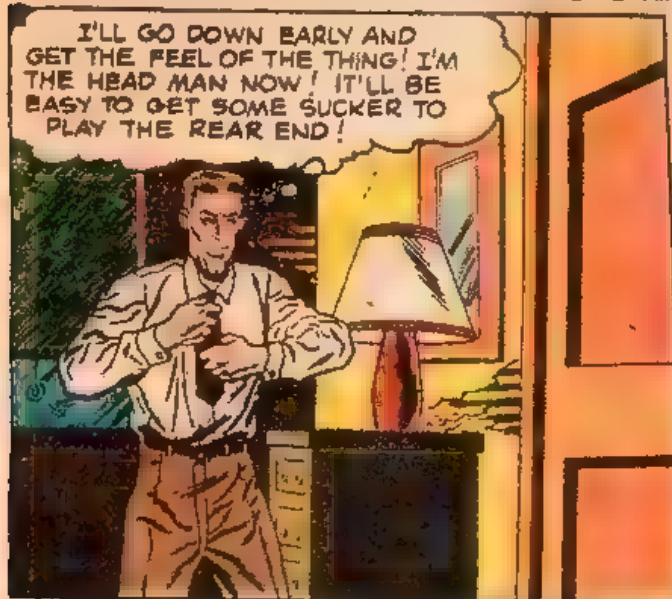


JOE WAITED ON THE BRIDGE OVER THE MUDDY RIVER... AND WHEN HE SAW EDDIE COMING...

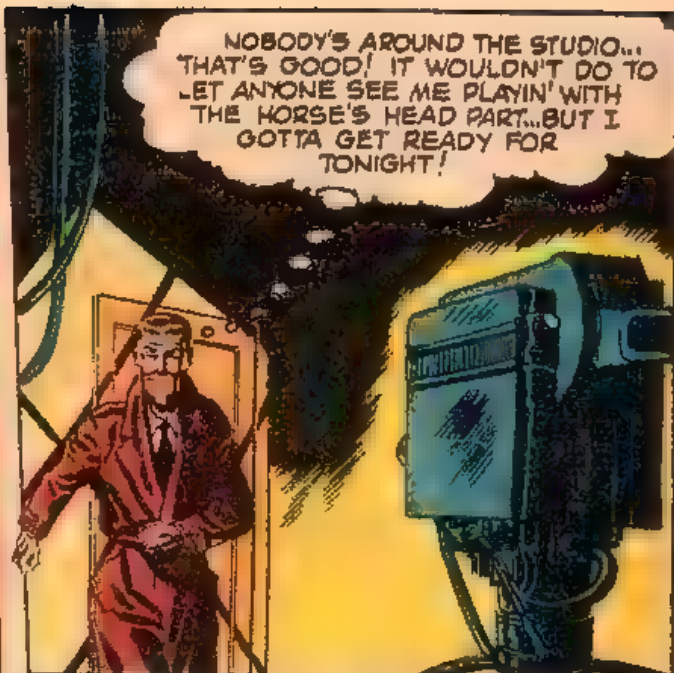


JOE HAD NO CONSCIENCE! HE WENT HOME AND SLEPT LIKE A LOG! AND THE NEXT DAY HE COULDN'T WAIT TO GET INTO HIS NEW PART...THE HORSE'S HEAD...

I'LL GO DOWN EARLY AND GET THE FEEL OF THE THING! I'M THE HEAD MAN NOW! IT'LL BE EASY TO GET SOME SUCKER TO PLAY THE REAR END!



NOBODY'S AROUND THE STUDIO... THAT'S GOOD! IT WOULDN'T DO TO LET ANYONE SEE ME PLAYIN' WITH THE HORSE'S HEAD PART...BUT I GOTTA GET READY FOR TONIGHT!



AH...THERE IT IS...



HEY...IT...IT'S MOVIN'...



IT'S COMIN' TOWARD ME...

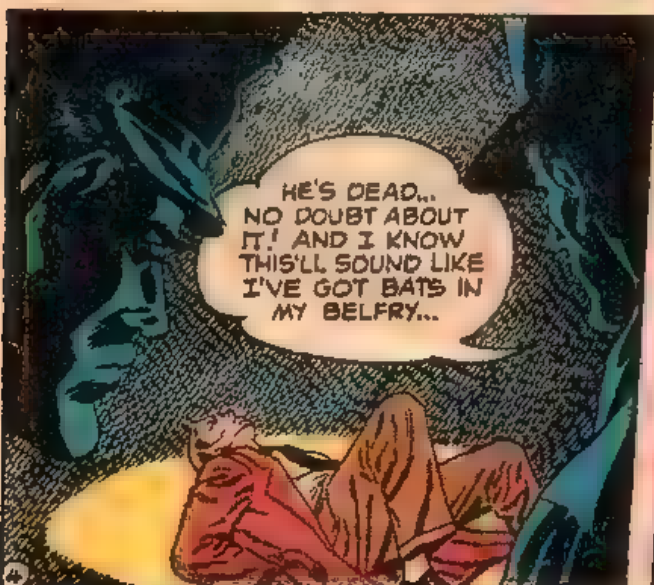


NO! NO! IT CAN'T BE... IT CAN'T!

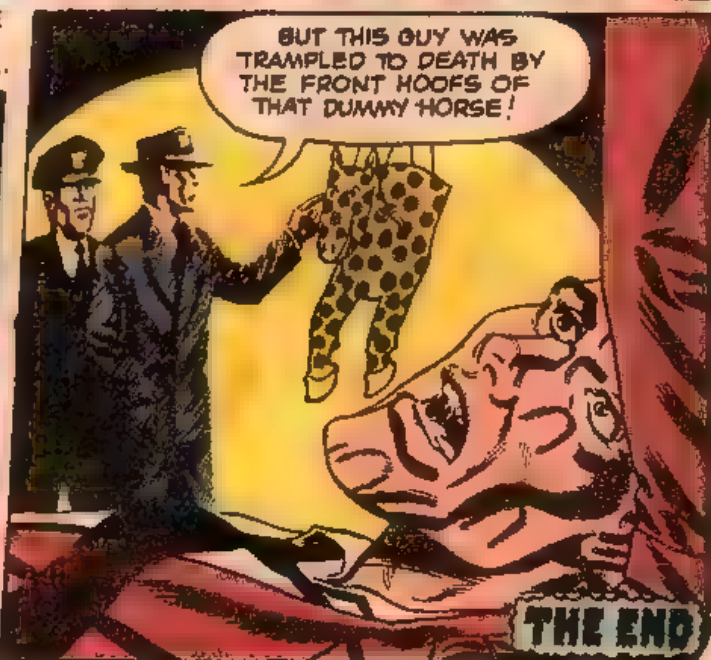


JOE SCREAMED AND THE WATCHMAN CAME ON THE RUN! WHEN HE SAW JOE, HE CALLED THE POLICE AND WHEN THE CORONER EXAMINED JOE'S BODY...

HE'S DEAD... NO DOUBT ABOUT IT! AND I KNOW THIS'LL SOUND LIKE I'VE GOT BATS IN MY BELFRY...

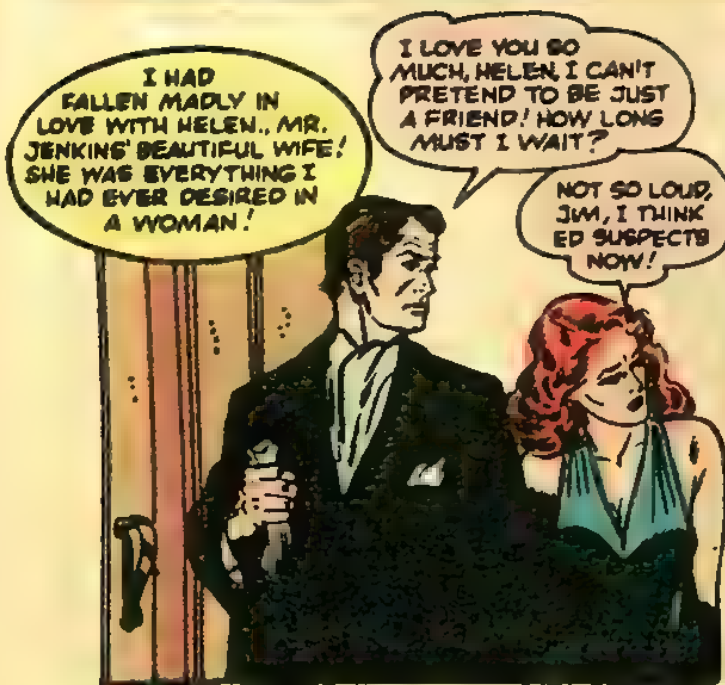
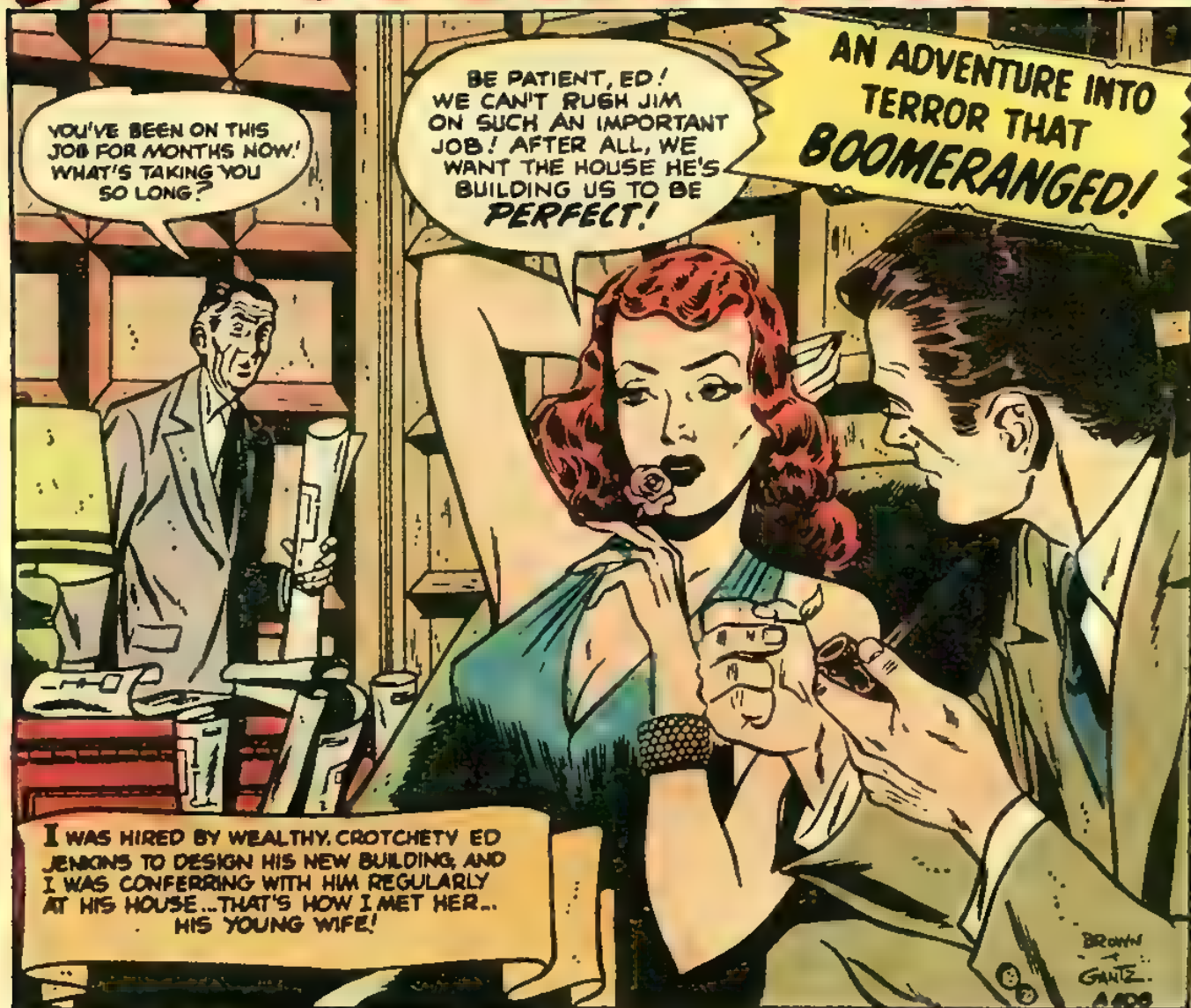


BUT THIS GUY WAS TRAMPLED TO DEATH BY THE FRONT HOOF OF THAT DUMMY HORSE!

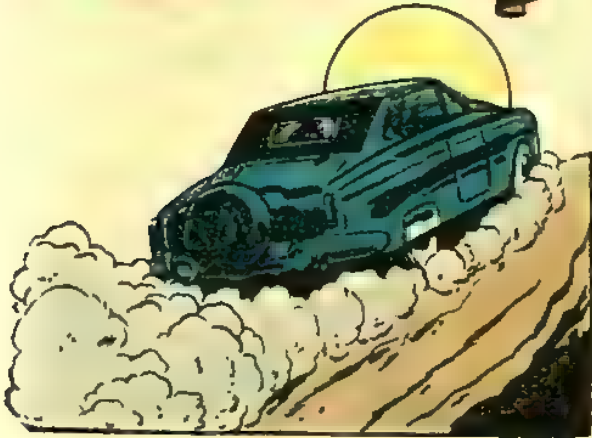


THE END

ED'S YOUNG WIFE!



FIND THAT WAY, SHE SAID! EVERY THROB OF THE ENGINE KEPT DRUMMING THAT ONE THOUGHT INTO MY HEAD! FIND THE WAY, FIND THE WAY! AND I DID... INSTEAD OF PLANS FOR HIS BUILDING, I WAS BUILDING PLANS FOR HIS DEATH!



NOW I KNEW WHAT HAD TO BE DONE AND I HAD TO SEE HELEN TO TELL HER! THE NEXT DAY I DROVE OUT TO HER HOME!

JIM DARLING, WHAT A SURPRISE! WE CAN SPEND THE WHOLE AFTER NOON TOGETHER! MY HUSBAND IS IN TOWN GETTING READY FOR HIS TRIP UP TO THE LAKE TO INSPECT HIS PROPERTIES! HE GOES THERE EVERY WEEK!



THOSE MOUNTAIN ROADS TO THE LAKE! OF COURSE! EVEN WHILE I HELD HER IN MY ARMS THE PLAN HIT ME! I HAD BEEN SEARCHING FOR IT FOR DAYS AND THEN A CASUAL SPOKEN WORD AND IT WAS ALL LAID OUT LIKE A BLUEPRINT!

THE PLAN HAD TO SUCCEED! THOSE NARROW, WINDING ROADS LEADING UP TO THE LAKE WERE TREACHEROUS! WHAT IF JENKINS' STEERING WHEEL SUDDENLY DIDN'T WORK? IT WOULD LOOK LIKE AN ACCIDENT!

THOSE ROADS, HELEN... IT'S THE CHANCE WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR! I CAN SOLVE ALL OUR PROBLEMS!

I DON'T WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU ARE THINKING, JIM! I DON'T WANT TO KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT! JUST HOLD ME TIGHT AND KISS ME!



YAAAAA!



ALL RIGHT, DARLING, I WON'T TELL YOU ABOUT MY PLAN... BUT I'M SURE IT WILL WORK! AND WHEN IT DOES... WE'LL BE TOGETHER FOREVER... BYE NOW, I HAVE TO GET THINGS READY!

GOODBYE, JIM, I DO HOPE IT WORKS WHATEVER YOU'RE PLANNING!



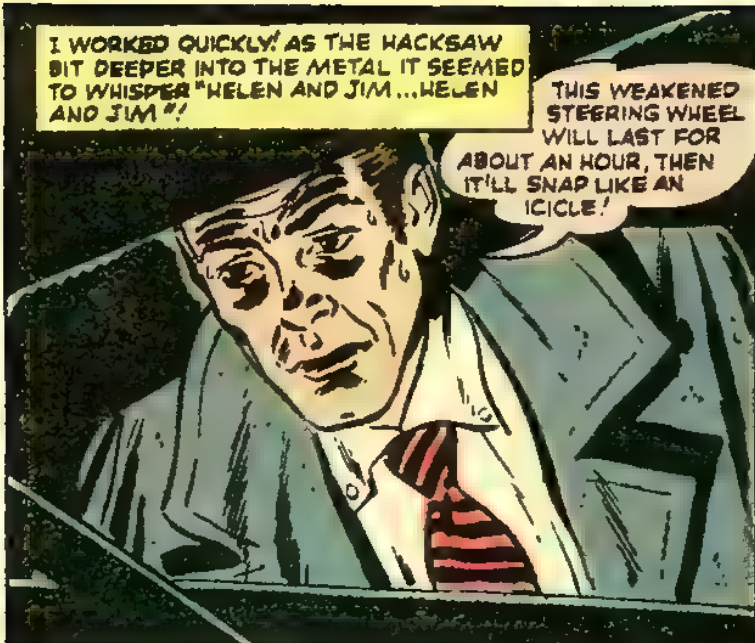
THAT NIGHT, I CAME BACK TO THE HOUSE AND SLIPPED INTO THE GARAGE...

THEY'RE ALL ASLEEP! THIS SHOULD BE VERY EASY! IN A FEW MINUTES THE BLUEPRINT FOR OLD JENKINS' DEATH WILL BE ALL DRAWN UP!



I WORKED QUICKLY! AS THE HACKSAW BIT DEEPER INTO THE METAL IT SEEMED TO WHISPER "HELEN AND JIM...HELEN AND JIM!"

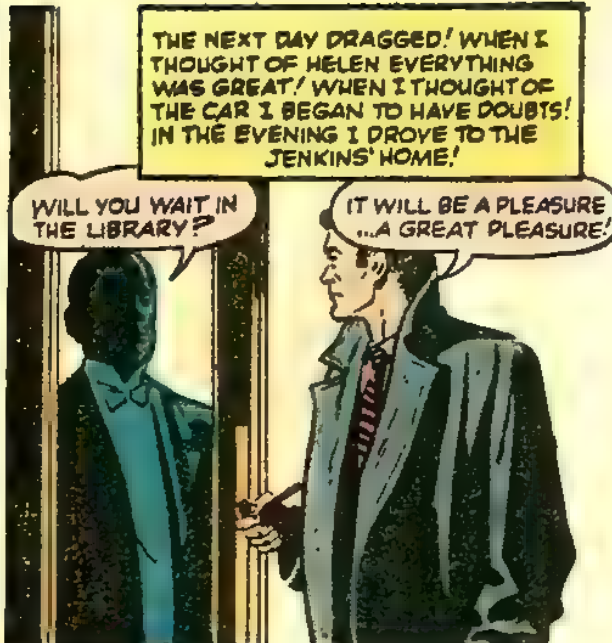
THIS WEAKENED STEERING WHEEL WILL LAST FOR ABOUT AN HOUR, THEN IT'LL SNAP LIKE AN ICICLE!



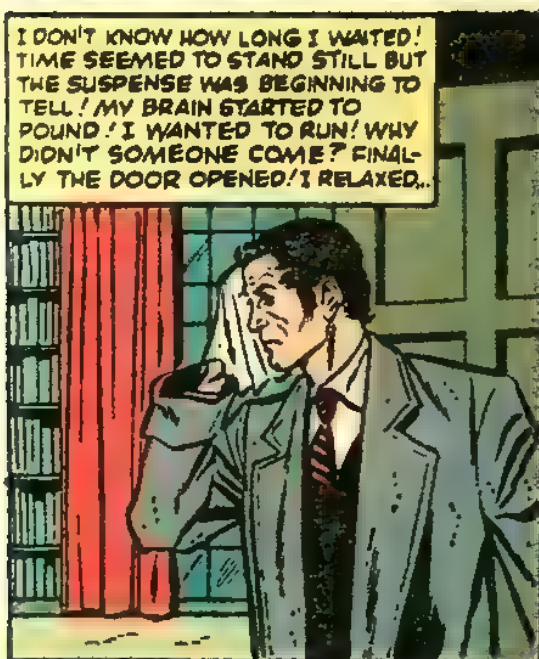
THE NEXT DAY DRAGGED! WHEN I THOUGHT OF HELEN EVERYTHING WAS GREAT! WHEN I THOUGHT OF THE CAR I BEGAN TO HAVE DOUBTS! IN THE EVENING I DROVE TO THE JENKINS' HOME!

WILL YOU WAIT IN THE LIBRARY?

IT WILL BE A PLEASURE...A GREAT PLEASURE!



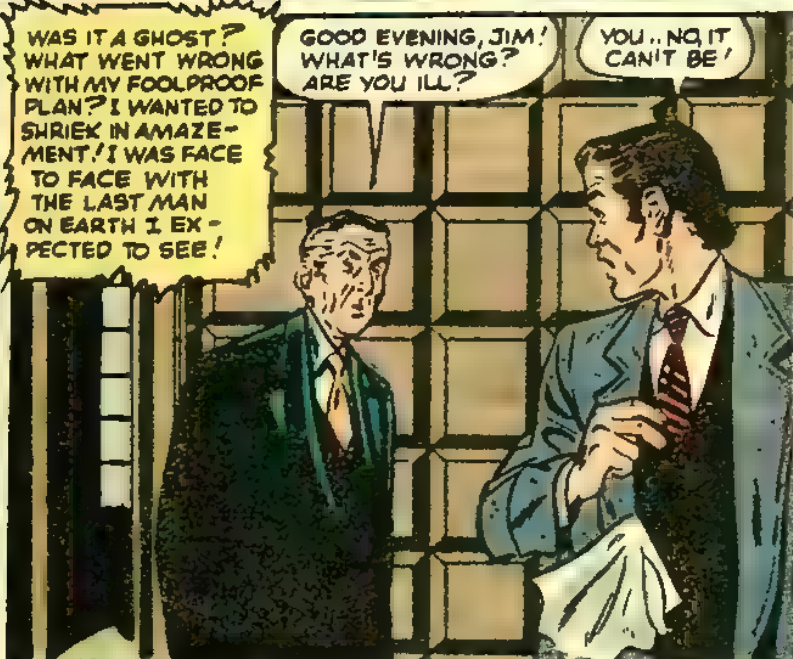
I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I WAITED! TIME SEEMED TO STAND STILL BUT THE SUSPENSE WAS BEGINNING TO TELL! MY BRAIN STARTED TO POUND! I WANTED TO RUN! WHY DIDN'T SOMEONE COME? FINALLY THE DOOR OPENED! I RELAXED...



WAS IT A GHOST? WHAT WENT WRONG WITH MY FOOLPROOF PLAN? I WANTED TO SHRIEK IN AMAZEMENT! I WAS FACE TO FACE WITH THE LAST MAN ON EARTH I EXPECTED TO SEE!

GOOD EVENING, JIM! WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU ILL?

YOU...NO, IT CAN'T BE!



W...WHAT ARE YOU DOING BACK SO EARLY? I THOUGHT..?

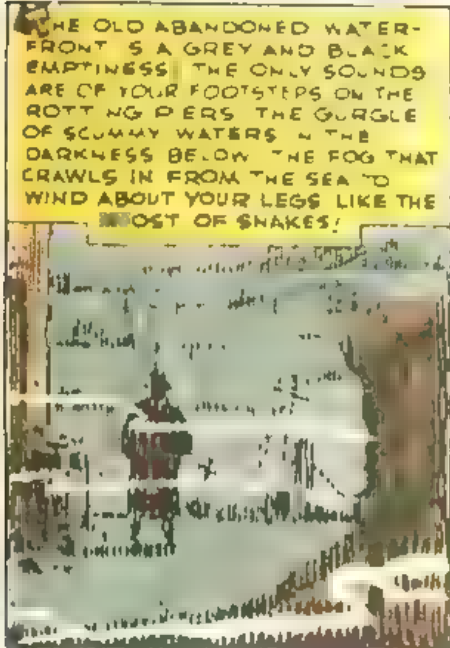
I DIDN'T GO UP TO THE LAKE... I WASN'T FEELING WELL THIS MORNING.. SO...

I SENT HELEN IN MY PLACE!



THE END

ISLAND OF FEAR!



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THE WHOLE THING BEGAN A FEW HOURS AGO, ALLEN! IN THE OFFICES OF THE NEWSPAPER, WHERE YOU WORK! YOU'RE TELLING YOUR BOSS--

DROP DEAD, WHEELER! I GOT A HOT TIP ON THOSE DISAPPEARANCES! IF YOU THINK I'M NOT GOING TO FOLLOW IT UP, YOU'RE CRAZY!

AND I'M ORDERING YOU TO REPORT WHAT-EVER INFORMATION YOU HAVE TO THE POLICE! **SIX MEN** HAVE DISAPPEARED ALONG THE OLD WATER-FRONT! THAT'S NOTHING FOR A SMART ALEC REPORTER TO MEDDLE WITH!



NUTS! I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF! ALL I NEED IS ONE BIG STORY AND I CAN KISS THIS HICK TOWN GOODBYE! NICK ALLEN IS HEADED FOR THE BIG TIME, WHEELER--AND EVERY LITTLE SCOOP HELPS!

OKAY, ALLEN, OKAY! IT'S YOUR NECK! GO ON AND RISK IT! YOU'RE TOO GOOD A REPORTER TO FIRE! BUT YOU WON'T CATCH ME BAWLING IF YOU DON'T COME BACK!



THE POMPOUS HITWIT! TALKING TO YOU THAT WAY! YOU TURN AND START OUT OF THE OFFICE-- BUT YOU STOP TO ANNOY JEANNIE, THE TYPIST! YOU LIKE TO ANNOY JEANNIE BECAUSE YOU KNOW SHE FEARS YOU!

YOU ONCE CALLED ME A "GHOUL" HONEY! WELL, GIVE ME A PRETTY SMILE, AND MAYBE I'LL BRING YOU BACK A NICE, MOLDY CORPSE! LIKE THAT, HUH?

SHE TAGGED YOU RIGHT, ALLEN--THE GHOUL WHO JUST LOVES TO COVER **TRAIN-WRECKS, EXECUTIONS, AND BLOODY MURDER CASES!** OH, GET LOST, WILL YOU? YOU MAKE US ALL SICK!



YOU LEAVE THE OFFICE AND GO TO YOUR ROOM--

THEY'RE ALL A BUNCH OF LILY-LIVERED, SMALL-TOWN HICKS WHO DON'T LIKE ME BECAUSE I'VE GOT GUTS...AND THEY HAVEN'T! WELL, ONE BIG STORY WILL PUT ME WHERE I REALLY BELONG! IN NEW YORK--OR CHICAGO--IN THE BIG TIME!



THEN YOU CAN GIVE THEM THE HORSELAUGH! SO WHAT IF YOU **DO** LIKE MURDERS? WRECKS? EXECUTIONS? SO WHAT IF YOU **DO** DEEP DOWN INSIDE YOURSELF ENJOY THE SIGHT OF SUFFERING, BLOOD, AND OF DESTRUCTION? IT MAKES GOOD COPY, DOESN'T IT? THAT KIND OF STUFF IS WHAT MAKES YOU A GOOD REPORTER! IT'S YOUR **SPECIALTY!**

TAKE ME TO THE OLD WATER-FRONT SECTION--AND TAKE THE **SHORTEST** ROUTE!



THE CABBY LOOKS SCARED WHEN YOU PAY HIM OFF, AND HE CLEARS OUT FAST! BUT YOU AREN'T SCARED! YOU START WALKING ALONG THE OLD PIERS, THROUGH THE GRAVEYARD-BLACK EMPTINESS! THIS IS IT! YOU WONDER WHAT YOU'LL FIND DOWN HERE IN THE FOG, THE MURK, THE SILENCE! A KILLER? A NUT? MAYBE NOTHING AT ALL!



AND THEN SUDDENLY--

I'M THE GENTLEMAN WHO PHONED YOU, MR. ALLEN! COME SIT DOWN, AND I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT THE DISAPPEARANCES!



CAUTIOUSLY, YOU STEP DOWN THE ROTTED PLANK TO THE DECK OF THE OLD YACHT! YOUR NOSE WRINKLES AT THE ODORS--SEAWEED, MUSTY CANVAS, RATS, AND A STRANGE, FOUL STENCH YOU CAN'T IDENTIFY!

NEVER MIND THE HAND-SHAKES, GRANDPOP! IF YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE DISAPPEARANCES, WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL THE COPS? THEY'VE BEEN AROUND, HAVEN'T THEY?

OH, YES--THEY WERE VERY CURIOUS! BUT YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHY I TOLD THEM NOTHING AFTER YOU HEAR THE STORY YOURSELF!

OKAY, LET'S HAVE IT! I'LL JUST SIT HERE AND LISTEN, NICE AND QUIET-- WITH MY HAND ON MY GUN! THEN, IF YOUR STORY IS ANY GOOD, WE CAN TALK ABOUT THE REWARD YOU MENTIONED!

MAAA--THE REWARD! TO BE SURE! WELL, IT BEGAN ABOUT TEN YEARS AGO, MR. ALLEN--

"I WAS A MEMBER OF A SMALL EXPEDITION, FINANCED BY AN EASTERN UNIVERSITY! OUR TASK WAS TO INVESTIGATE RUMORS OF A STRANGE, LOST CITY DOWN AMONG THE SOLOMON ISLANDS! A CITY CALLED 'AXTEPTL', WHICH IN THE DIALECTS OF THE REGION MEANS 'CITY OF THE HEADS'!"

"WE SEARCHED FOR MONTHS, SAILING FROM ISLAND TO ISLAND! EVERYWHERE THE NATIVES WERE RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS THE 'CITY OF THE HEADS'! THEY SEEMED TERRIFIED! EVEN THE FEW WHITE MEN WE MET WARNED US TO GIVE UP OUR SEARCH! BUT THEIR FEAR ONLY STRENGTHENED OUR CURIOSITY AND DETERMINATION!"

"THEN ONE DAY A TROPICAL STORM DROVE US OFF OUR COURSE, AND WE FOUND AN UN-CHARTED ISLAND WHICH WE FELT MIGHT BE IT!"



"WE ANCHORED IN A SMALL INLET, AND SET OUT IMMEDIATELY FOR THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN, THE ISLAND'S HIGHEST POINT--FROM WHICH WE MIGHT SPOT THE LOST CITY IF IT WAS THERE! THE JAGGED ROCKS AND THE RAIN MADE CLIMBING DIFFICULT! WE MUST HAVE CLIMBED FOR HOURS!"

"RONSTEDT, OUR ARCHAEOLOGIST, WAS THE FIRST TO REACH THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN! THE OTHERS HEARD HIM SHOUT IN ASTONISHMENT!"

WELL I'LL BE... HURRY UP, THE REST OF YOU! AND TELL ME IF YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?!

A MOMENT LATER--

HOLY SMOKES! THOSE AWFUL HEADS!

IT'S FANTASTIC! HAVE YOU EVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT, RONSTEDT?

NEVER! A COMPLETELY UNKNOWN ARCHITECTURE! AND LOOK AT THOSE STATUES! THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, GENTLEMEN--WE'VE FOUND OUR 'CITY OF THE HEADS'!



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

"WE SET UP CAMP--AND IN THE POURING RAIN, THE THUNDER AND LIGHTNING, WE BEGAN TO MAKE OUR INVESTIGATIONS! SCIENTISTS ARE THAT WAY--"

STRANGE-- WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THESE STATUES? RONSTEDT, DON'T YOU THINK THEY RESEMBLE THE IDOLS OF CERTAIN CANNIBAL TRIBES? THE HUGE MOUTH, THE SHARP FANGS!

THE DEVIL WITH THE STATUES, MORE! IT'S THAT TEMPLE THAT INTERESTS ME! I'M GOING TO HAVE A LOOK AT IT!



"A MOMENT LATER--"

YES, I'D BE WILLING TO BET THAT THEY ARE CANNIBAL GODS! HMM-- WHAT--!

THAT'S RONSTEDT SHOUTING! WONDER WHAT HE'S FOUND?

EVERY-ONE! COME HERE QUICKLY!



SORRY TO STARTLE YOU, GENTLEMEN! BUT I THOUGHT YOU'D ALL BE INTERESTED IN THIS INSCRIPTION OVER THE TEMPLE DOOR! LISTEN, I BELIEVE I CAN GIVE YOU A ROUGH TRANSLATION--

* HE WHO ENTERS THIS TEMPLE AS HUMAN WILL LEAVE IT AS A MONSTER, HALF-MAN, HALF-GOD, AND MUST FOREVER DEVOUR THE FLESH OF HIS FELLOWS AS PUNISHMENT FOR HIS TRESPASS!

OH-- MY GOODNESS! THAT'S-- THAT'S HORRIBLE!

HORRIBLE? MY DEAR PERRY, I THINK IT'S CHARMING! CHILDISH SUPERSTITION TO FRIGHTEN CHILDISH MINDS! IT'S CERTAINLY NOT GOING TO PREVENT ME FROM GOING INTO THE TEMPLE!

DON'T BE A FOOL, RONSTEDT!



NONSENSE! I DON'T BELIEVE IN THOSE IDIOTIC CURSES! I'M GOING IN!

"NERVOUSLY, THE OTHERS WENT BACK TO THEIR TASKS-- SAYING NOTHING--NOT LOOKING AT ONE ANOTHER--THEN, SUDDENLY!"

AHHHHH!

GOOD HEAVENS! THAT'S RONSTEDT IN THE TEMPLE!

HE SOUNDS AS IF HE'S IN VIOLENT PAIN!



"STRANGE, SLOW, SHUFFLING STEPS... CLOSER..."



"--AND CLOSER-- THE HANDS DANGLING LIKE DEAD THINGS--"



"BUT THE SILHOUETTE OF THE HEAD WAS WRONG!"



HIS FACE! HE HAS THE FACE OF THE STATUES! OH, NO-O-O-- AIEEEE!

BULLETS DON'T STOP HIM! NO, RONSTEDT, DON'T!

ARGH-HH!

CHOMP CHOMP

AND THAT'S THE STORY I PROMISED YOU, MR. ALLEN! SHORTLY AFTERWARDS, I BROUGHT THIS YACHT BACK SINGLE-HANDED TO CIVILIZATION! NOW I LIVE ABOARD IT, TRAVELLING ABOUT AS I PLEASE! INDIA, CHINA, SOUTH AMERICA, ALWAYS ON THE MOVE! AND NOW THAT I'VE TOLD YOU MY STORY PERHAPS I CAN DISCUSS MY REWARD!

REWARD?! I OUGHTTA KICK YOU RIGHT OFF YOUR STINKING BOAT FOR WASTING MY TIME! WHAT IN BLAZES HAVE CREEPY ISLANDS AND STATUES GOT TO DO WITH THE DISAPPEARANCES? AND, IF THAT STORY IS TRUE, HOW DID YOU ESCAPE RONSTEDT? AND WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO RONSTEDT?

TUT, MR. ALLEN-- I ANTICIPATED YOUR QUESTIONS! TO BE FRANK, I DIDN'T TELL YOU THE WHOLE STORY! SOME OF IT MUST BE SHOWN! IF YOU'LL STEP OVER HERE A MOMENT, PLEASE!

THEN YOU FREEZE WITH HORROR IN YOUR TRACKS! FOR THE OLD MAN HAS FLUNG OPEN THE DOOR! THE FOUL GRAVEYARD STENCH, WHICH YOU COULDN'T IDENTIFY, NOW TWISTS YOUR STOMACH HOTLY INTO ITSELF! AND YOU SEE--

I BELIEVE THIS WILL EXPLAIN THE CONNECTION BETWEEN MY STORY AND THE DISAPPEARANCES, MR. ALLEN! YOU SEE? AND AS FOR YOUR LAST TWO QUESTIONS--

NOW YOU KNOW, ALLEN! NOW YOU HAVE YOUR BIGGEST STORY! YOU'VE SOLVED THE MYSTERY OF THE WATERFRONT DISAPPEARANCES! AND PERHAPS OF THOUSANDS OF OTHERS, TOO! BUT YOU'LL NEVER LIVE TO WRITE IT! FOR THE THING THAT STANDS BESIDE YOU IS WAITING FOR ITS REWARD!

NOTHING HAPPENED TO RONSTEDT!

THE END